

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 35-40 are pending. New claims 41-50 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 35-37 and 39 have been amended. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 35-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,154,839 to Arrow *et al.* (hereafter: "Arrow"). For the reasons discussed below, these claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 35-40 recite novel embodiments of an information processing system described on, for example, pgs. 34-37. The system can include electronic equipment 151 and a server device 154. The electronic equipment includes an electronic equipment identifier that is information for identifying the electronic equipment which is not desired to be known by third parties. For example, if the identifier is a MAC address or an IP address, if it is known to a third party, the electronic equipment itself may be accessed freely. That is, the electronic equipment identifier should be securely protected.

In view of the above problem, as well as other concerns, claim 1 recites *inter alia* the novel embodiment of an information processing system described on, for example, pgs. 34-37 in which the electronic equipment includes an index information holding section holding 15102 for storing index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier, and a send information sending section 15103 for obtaining the index information from the index information holding section and sending send information containing the index information to the server device. The server device 154 includes an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section.

Accordingly, theft of the electronic equipment identifier when information is sent from the electronic equipment to the server device can be prevented, thereby assuring security (see pg. 39, lines 19-21).

Arrow describes an address translation unit 808 includes which creates a pool of privileged addresses for all local networks that the address translation unit serves. When a user 810 on remote machine 812 sends a packet 814 including a user ID field 821, source address field 823 and destination address field 825 to the address translation unit 808, the address

translation unit 808 operates to replace the address of remote machine 822 in source address field 823 with privileged address 826 so that the packet 814 can pass through firewall 806.

However, Arrow does not disclose that the remote machine 812 as the electronic device includes an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier as called for in claim 1. The User ID 820 pointed by the examiner merely identifies user 810 on remote machine 812. Although Arrow describes the address translation unit 808 receiving the address of remote machine address 822, the address is different from index information as claimed. The point of sending the index information in claim 1 is so that the address (electronic equipment identifier) does not have to be sent, thereby securely protecting the address.

Accordingly, because Arrow does not disclose that the remote machine 812 as the electronic device includes an index information holding section holding index information that is information for obtaining an electronic equipment identifier as called for in claim 1, the rejection of claim 1, as well as dependent claims 35 and 38 should be withdrawn.

Further regarding claim 35, Arrow fails to disclose that the address translation unit 808 obtains the electronic equipment identifier based on the index information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section, and accesses the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier.

Rather, Arrow describes the address translation unit 808 receiving a packet 814 which already includes a user ID field 821 and address of the machine (source address field 823). Although a privileged address 826 is obtained based upon perhaps the ID or machine address, Arrow does not disclose accessing related information based upon the privileged address. Rather, Arrow only describes accessing one particular type of data (the privilege address). Accordingly, the rejection of claim 35 should be withdrawn. The same argument applies to claims 37 and 40, which should thereby also be in condition for allowance.

Claim 36 recites the novel embodiment described, for example, on pgs. 35-36 in which the server device includes *inter alia* a send information receiving section for receiving send information from an electronic equipment, the send information including a packet having a destination address of the server device and the index information; and an information accessing section for obtaining the electronic equipment identifier based on the index

information contained in the send information received by the send information receiving section.

Exemplary packets in the send information are shown in FIGs. 7-8. As described on pgs. 39-40, the processing of the first and second embodiments can be used in the third embodiment.

Although, in Arrow, the address translation unit 808 receives a packet from a remote machine including a user ID field 821, source address field 823 and destination address field 825, the destination field includes the address of local machine 802. That is, the address translation unit 808 is disposed in front of a firewall 806 so that only packets from a privileged address reach the local machine. The final destination of these packets is not the address translation unit 808.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to disclose that the address translation unit 808 receives send information including a packet having a destination address of the server device and the index information, the rejection of claim 36, as well as dependent claim 37 should be withdrawn.

Claim 39 has also been amended to specify that the send information includes an address associated with the server device as a destination address and index information associated with an electronic equipment identifier of the electronic equipment, similarly to claim 36. Therefore, the rejection of claim 39, as well as dependent claim 40 should be withdrawn.

New claim 45 also recites this limitation, and therefore should also be in condition for allowance.

New claims 41-42 further recite the novel embodiment described, for example, on pg. 36, lines 6-9 in which the electronic equipment related information includes a port number or IP address for accessing the electronic equipment.

In comparison, Arrow describes the address translation unit 808 as including the privileged address, the address of the remote machine, and the user ID. The examiner has asserted that the user ID discloses the index information. However, the address translation unit 808 does not store the electronic equipment identifier to correspond to the user ID. Rather, the user ID is associated with a privileged address. However, the privileged address is not an IP

address or port number for accessing the electronic equipment. Accordingly, new claims 41-42 should be in condition for allowance.

New claim 50 further recites that the related information is the IP address for a router coupled to the electronic equipment as described in pgs. 38-39. Accordingly, new claim 50 should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claims 41-42.

New claims 43-44 and 47 further recite the novel embodiment described, for example, on pg. 35, lines 5-8 in which the electronic equipment identifier is an Internet protocol address or a MAC address associated with the electronic equipment.

In comparison, in Arrow, a user ID 820 in the packet 814 is sent to the address translation unit 808. The examiner has asserted that the user ID discloses the electronic equipment identifier. However, Arrow does not disclose that the user ID is an IP or MAC address. Therefore, new claims 43-44 and 47 should be in condition for allowance.

New claims 46 and 48-49 further recite the novel embodiment described, for example, pg. 39, lines 16-20, in which the send information does not include the electronic equipment identifier. In comparison, in Arrow, the packet 814 includes the user ID 820 (which the examiner has asserted as disclosing the identifier) and the address of the machine 822. Accordingly, new claims 46 and 48-49 should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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